(b) There is a proposal to increase the retirment age of university teachers from 62 years to 65 years. The Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Visit of educationists' delegation to Saudi Arabia

†583. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a delegation of educationists made a visit to Saudi Arabia alongwith him; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed with Saudi Arabia for mutual co-operation and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the visit was to expand relations with Saudi Arabia in the field of Education. The visit was very fruitful. Meetings were held with King of Saudi Arabia, the Education Minister of Saudi Arabia and other important dignitaries. Various matters concerning collaboration in the field of Education and interaction between Institutions of India and Saudi Arabia were discussed.

Reconstruction of university system

584. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for reconstruction of the university system in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deteriorating health of universities in the past two decades has affected scientific research base; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are stressing upon the contribution of the private sector in the expansion of university system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Revamping of higher education is a continuing process.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is a substantial presence of unaided institutions in higher and technical education and the present policy is against any commercialization of education.

Mismanagement in Navodaya Vidyalayas

†585. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is utter mismanagement due to lack of any proper monitoring cell in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas being run by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reports of fleeing away of children from several Vidyalayas have also been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have received complaints of providing sub-standard and contaminated food to children, harassment etc. in the said Vidyalayas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) has reported that incidents of fleeing of 18 students in 15 schools have come to their notice since April, 2004.

(d) and (e) Four incidents of allegation of providing sub-standard food by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have come to the notice of NVS

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.